

Speeches

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Paper War Can Turn Bad Ream to Nightmare

Uncle Sam is trying to cut down on unnecessary paper work, but he's found out that one bad ream can develop into a nightmare.

"We pick away at it," John M. Malloy, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for procurement, told a House subcommittee yesterday, "but it's a challenge to operate . . . without all this paper work."

One of the hardest things he said is editing contracts and procurement forms which inform bidders of Defense specifications and requirements for huge projects.

When Rep. Paul Krebs (D-N.J.) cited one Air Force project that generated some 35 tons of paper on soliciting and bidding, Malloy noted that his Department was trying to consolidate all phases of the work into one neat package.

The experiment taught his office a lesson, he said—that "total packet procurement" may be desirable, but the

paper work still needs cutting down.

Officials from the Bureau of the Budget and the Department of Commerce also told the subcommittee that they're trying to reduce the number of forms and reports they require, but noted that new programs mean new records.

At one point, Krebs asked Malloy if there were any figures on how many forms the Defense Department uses altogether.

"I don't know whether I'm promising the moon," said Malloy, "but we'll make an attempt to find out."

"That's why I'm asking," quipped Krebs, "so we'll know how big the moon is."

Acting subcommittee chairman Arnold Olsen (D-Mont.)

observed later that findings indicate the agencies' "good job so far could be a much better job tomorrow if we keep up the Federal Government's war on red tape."

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